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If They Build It, Environmentalists Demand that the Baseball Stadium Be Green

by Gwyn Jones

While community members, the D.C. Council, the mayor and business leaders debate the pros and cons of the funding for a proposed baseball stadium along the South Capitol Street corridor, several environmental groups have joined forces to make sure that, if it happens, it will be green.

At the October 28 public hearing on the matter, the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Anacostia Watershed Society, Clean Water Action, and the Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee proposed a Green Stadium amendment to the Ballpark Omnibus Financing and Revenue Act of 2004 (Bill #15-1028).

The proposed amendment would ensure that the stadium would be “green” and would dedicate \$5 million from stadium and operations tax receipts to a trust fund for Anacostia River restoration projects.

As of press time, the fate of the stadium bill is still unknown, with a council vote

scheduled for November 30. The group has confirmed, however, that language is now in the bill that affirms the need for the stadium to incorporate sustainable design strategies, especially with regard to storm water and wastewater. The alliance is now working to strengthen the language to require those strategies.

Several members of the alliance were among the over 200 residents and organizations who testified at the October 28 hearing, which ended at 2:30 a.m.

Although councilmembers did not seem interested in the trust fund component of the amendment, the green design seemed to resonate with both councilmembers Harold Brazil (D-At Large) and Jack Evans (D-Ward 2), the bill’s co-sponsors.

Gwyn Jones, D.C. Chapter Conservation chair, got her turn to speak near midnight.

“Any large civic project—any large project, really—that is located in the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative zone ought to be designed

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Activists from Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and other organizations demonstrate on November 16 in support of renewable energy for D.C. To get involved in the efforts for clean energy in D.C. contact Marty Silber at marty_silber@yahoo.com or 571-236-5396. (photo by Jim Dougherty)

After Election 2004

Capital Sierran Editors

Chris Craig, Yoma Ullman, Anna Kinsman and Gwyn Jones

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Correction

During the editing process for Dan Emerine's article on housing choices in the fall issue, the word "only" was inserted before the figure in his original sentence "... the District accounts for 23 percent of the region's affordable housing units." The use of the word "only" was inappropriate because 23 percent is a large share of the region's affordable housing stock relative to the population share. The author does believe, however, that more affordable housing is still needed—both in the District and nationwide.

Getting over It and Getting on with It

by Bob Morris,
D.C. Chapter Executive Committee

For many of us, this past presidential election commanded unprecedented involvement. I spent weekend days in Philadelphia going door to door and connecting with potential voters with the Sierra Club Environmental Education Campaign (EVEC). I even donated money to my candidate, which those who know me will recognize as particularly uncharacteristic. Like many others, I was disappointed with the outcome and indulged in anger, vilification of the opposing candidate and his supporters, and woeful predictions of war, environmental degradation and plunder by the carbon-based industries.

I got over it.

It wasn't easy. Long walks in the woods provided a chance to dig back into the past and slowly, bit by bit, recognize that I hadn't ever felt comfortable about angry finger-pointing fulminations by the candidates I supported. I was disappointed with my own demonizing of those with whom I disagreed. I should know better. In Washington, D.C., on August 28, 1963, and Selma, Alabama, in 1965, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. taught us the principles of nonviolent activism. An effective movement could not be built on anger and hate then nor can it now. Tolerance, respect, love and peace are the characteristics of effective movements of the past, aggressively and courageously applied in the face of angry foes motivated by fear and insecurity. During the Anti Vietnam War March on the Pentagon, soldiers protecting the building were largely neutralized when demonstrators put flowers in their gun barrels and expressed concern and understanding for their difficult position. Some were persuaded to put down their arms; ultimately the nation came to think peace was a better way.

We seek harmony and balance in our relationship with nature, and that same harmony and balance are needed in our social order if we are to advance an agenda of good stewardship of the environment. The myth of Red and Blue states is just a media invention intended to help them sell air time and newspapers. In Oklahoma and Indiana, as well as in Massachusetts and California, people from both parties want to breathe clean air, drink clean water and protect wild places for their children.

If we address them with love and respect, we can get past their fear of us and talk about how we can work together to ensure a clean, secure environment for the future.

The Sierra Club has two new initiatives that will help us to build these relationships. Building Environmental Communities (BEC) borrows features from the EVEC election-year program mentioned above. It involves building relationships with other organizations that share some of our objectives and organizing volunteers to spread the word about environmental initiatives in their communities. In Philadelphia that worked well. We had thousands of conversations with people of all demographic groups, and got unprecedented turnout for the election. We can do the same here in our own neighborhoods to address national, regional and local issues. Chris Carney is our Washington Region BEC organizer; you can contact him at Chris.carney@sierraclub.org or 202-237-0754 for more information.

Engaging Our Members (EOM) is the second initiative. Volunteers are invited to put together small gatherings in their homes, usually 6-10 friends, neighbors, work associates, etc. You will be supported with guides to help get discussions going on environmental topics, and in many cases we can arrange for local chapter leaders to come and help you with the discussions. We have discussion guides on air pollution from power plants now, and more are coming. We haven't identified a local volunteer to handle the EOM arrangements yet, but if you are interested you can contact me at arccbob@earthlink.net or 202-548-8240.

In our December meeting, the Appalachian Region Conservation Committee will be discussing these programs and how we can use them in our campaigns to build a clean energy economy and stop poisonous and greenhouse gas emissions. We also will be discussing forming a Power Team and a River Team to lead initiatives on energy and water issues. Let me know if you want to be a part of these teams. Nonviolent does not mean passive, and we intend to vigorously use all legal means to engage the corporate entities that are harming the environment and help them find a better way.

Conservation

Smoke-Free Campaign Gains Momentum

by Eric Marshall
Field Director, Breathe Free D.C.

Coming on the heels of a successful Great American Smokeout® event at Ben's Chili Bowl in November, the smoke-free campaign for Washington, D.C., led by the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), is gaining significant momentum as the new session of the D.C. Council approaches. ACS CAN is working with the Campaign for Tobacco Free-Kids and many local organizations, including the D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club, to pass a law prohibiting smoking in all indoor workplaces, including bars and restaurants, in the District.

On December 15, more than 100 volunteers, all registered D.C. voters, will take part in the campaign's Smoke-free Workplaces Advocacy Day at the D.C. Council. The volunteers, in groups of 10-15, will descend on the Wilson Building to advocate for smoke-free workplaces with their respective councilmembers.

"During our advocacy day we are going to prove to the council that this issue receives a broad base of support throughout the District," stated ACS volunteer Karlynn BrintzenhofeSzoc. (To volunteer, contact Eric Marshall at 202-661-5722 or eric.marshall@cancer.org.)

There is a great opportunity to pass a law to make workplaces smoke-free in 2005. In addition to last year's champions, Councilmembers Adrian Fenty (D-Ward 4), Kathy Patterson (D-Ward 3), and Phil Mendelson (D-At Large), Councilmembers-elect Kwame Brown and Vincent Gray both campaigned in support of smoke-free workplaces. Their support, coupled with the work already done by smoke-free volunteers,

has created the right environment to pass this law.

Secondhand smoke, also known as environmental tobacco smoke, is a health hazard. It causes cancer, lung disease and emphysema. Every year secondhand smoke kills 35,000 to 40,000 nonsmokers from heart disease. In fact, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advise anyone with a heart condition to avoid bars and restaurants that allow smoking.

Washington, D.C., needs a smoke-free workplaces law to protect its residents, workers and visitors from secondhand smoke's 60 known or probable carcinogens and more than 4,000 chemicals. Non-smoking sections with separate ventilation systems just don't work. A recent study, conducted by researchers at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, found 16 times more indoor air pollution in the District's bars and restaurants than in those in smoke-free New York City.

A smoke-free workplaces law just makes sense. It saves lives, cuts down on healthcare costs, and does not negatively affect the bar and restaurant industry. Even though a lot of work has been done, and the ACS CAN-led campaign is well positioned, there is still a lot of work to be done.

"With the hard work and dedication of active members of the D.C. community a smoke-free D.C. will become a reality," said BrintzenhofeSzoc, "it's too important not to."

This grassy path has been replaced by a state-of-the-art trail, making walking and biking to the U.S. Capitol a safer experience. (photo courtesy of DDOT)

Metro Branch Trail Gains New Link

by Paul Meijer and Chris Craig

When the New York Avenue/Florida Avenue/Gallaudet University Metro Station opened on November 20, trail enthusiasts celebrated the related completion of an important, 2,000 foot segment of the Metropolitan Branch Trail. This link lies along the station between L Street and Harry Thomas Way, N.E., and allows pedestrians and bicyclists to avoid the dangerous crossings at New York and Florida avenues. Previously, this intersection has been a major hurdle for bicycles en route between Takoma or Silver Spring and downtown D.C.

From the north, a path has been constructed from Harry Thomas Way to the underpass at New York Avenue. The path then rises to the level of the Metro station, where the platforms are 30 feet above the ground, and to an overpass above Florida Avenue. (An elevator and staircase connect the trail with the street level and provide access to the station.) Continuing south, the trail descends by switchbacks to M Street, and travelers may continue toward Union Station on either side of the tracks.

The opening of this safe link may convince more people to commute through Northeast D.C. by bike or foot, improving their own health and the air quality of Washington.



Conservation

Letter to the Editor:

Global Warming is bad, but...

As a 27-year Sierra Club activist, I write to comment on Bob Morris's article on climate collapse in the National Forum section of the Fall 2004 *Capital Sierran* newsletter. In it, Morris states that the club recognizes that "current carbon-based energy policies will likely wipe out **most** [emphasis added] of the environmental gains it has made over its long history." I think this is an overstatement.

The club can justifiably claim to have made in its history a lot of "gains" of considerable diversity and worldwide scope. These would include, for example, gains related to reductions in toxic air, water and soil pollution; reduction

in soil erosion; improvements in agricultural cultivation and livestock raising and reductions in associated pesticide use; water conservation; increased protection of marine living resources and reduction in ocean pollution; increased public awareness of the benefits of reducing population growth and urban sprawl; improvements in energy efficiency and shifts to a greater range of renewable and environmentally benign energy sources; and significant protections of wild lands and wildlife, among others. Even if we acknowledge that wild land and wildlife protections in some areas could be severely impacted by climate change, and that air

and water pollution problems related to carbon-based energy do still exist, I cannot see how all those other gains listed above would be "wiped out" (or even eroded) by a continuation of "current carbon-based energy policies." While certain linkages do exist between such energy policies and some of the club's gains, I would strongly disagree that they are so umbilical in nature.

Morris has written a helpful article on an issue of critical concern for club members, but his argument is weakened by this overstatement.

Bill Mankin
Washington, D.C.

Baseball

Continued from page 1

in a way that is sustainable in the materials and resources it uses," she said. "Given the state of the Anacostia River, the design of the building and accompanying parking lots has to minimize storm-water runoff and wastewater pollution. Other stadiums are using environmentally conscious design. We should too."

Jones in her testimony also took issue with the fact that no environmental impact statement had been completed before the District government designated the site. The chapter does not expressly support or oppose the funding bill.

In addition to their testimony, the environmental groups are working to make sure that development, if it happens, benefits the environment and the community. They agree that in many ways the South Capitol street site is not a bad one.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Doug Siglin pointed out that the existing site with its mostly impervious surface allows runoff from largely industrial use

facilities and that the soil is most likely contaminated as well, all of which is bad for the Anacostia. New construction that would reduce the amount of runoff while cleaning up the contamination would benefit the Anacostia River and the surrounding neighborhoods.

"If the District is serious about revitalizing the Anacostia waterfront and wants to build a baseball stadium, it's got to be green," Nancy Stoner, NRDC Clean Water Project director, said.

A key concern of the council is that a green stadium would cost more to build. But sustainable design on average costs only 2-5 percent more than a comparable conventional building. The savings in operating and maintaining these buildings make up for the up-front costs, often within the first five years.

Thoughtful design and careful selection of materials and systems can minimize a building's impact on the environment. Sustainable, or green, design encompasses a range of issues surrounding a building's design, including access to mass transit, storm-water

runoff, landscaping and exterior design, lighting, heating, ventilation and cooling, energy and water use, alternative energy sources, recycling and building materials.

A number of stadiums across the country already use sustainable design strategies. The New England Patriots' Gillette Stadium deals with the 600,000 to 1 million gallons of water its fans use at one game by collecting wastewater on site, treating it and then reusing it in the form of "gray water" sent to the toilets and urinals in the stadium. It also features timing devices that automatically shut down nonessential lighting after hours to conserve energy.

The new Jets Stadium, along the Hudson in New York City, is still in design, but promises to be the greenest stadium yet.

For more information on sustainable design, see <http://www.usgbc.org>. For more information on the green stadium initiative, contact Gwyn Jones at gwynjones@aol.com or 202-607-7094.

Conservation

Hopes Brighten for Anacostia Cleanup

by *Marchant Wentworth*

At press time in mid-November, there were new indications of real progress in the struggle to finalize a solution to the sewer overflow problems that have plagued District waters—in particular the Anacostia River—for more than a century.

The product of an antiquated 19th century infrastructure, these sewers combined raw human waste with the runoff from downspouts and streets in a single pipe. This saved the city the expense of laying two pipes. It also fueled the explosive real estate development that created neighborhoods in Crestwood, Shaw, Adams Morgan, Petworth Bloomingdale and Brookland. All of this development during the early part of the 20th century completely overwhelmed a sewer system that was not built to handle the additional houses. The inadequacy

of this old system, serving almost two-thirds of the land mass of the District of Columbia, means that when it rains, raw sewage and rainfall mix together and overflow into the nearest waterway. For example, according to quarterly reports on the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) Web site, the total of 1.21 inches of rain that fell on the District during April 2004 yielded three different overflows into the Anacostia River totaling more than 98 million gallons.

In response to a requirement in its water quality permit, WASA was required to produce a Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) detailing how it would curtail the combined sewer overflows (CSOs) that continue to foul the Potomac, Rock Creek and the Anacostia. The draft LTCP—the product of dozens of public meeting—was

finally submitted to Region III of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in August 2002. It calls for a system of deep tunnels to contain the polluted water during rainstorms. After the rain, this huge volume of polluted water would then be pumped to the treatment plant, cleaned and discharged to the Potomac. Overall, the plan would take over 20 years to complete and cost over \$1 billion. Experts maintain that because of the massive quantities of water generated from even a normal rainfall, these tunnels would reduce the overflows by over 96 percent and provide the protection that the Anacostia needs to begin to get clean.

Some citizen groups have, however, raised concerns about the plan's ability to enable the Anacostia to meet water quality standards. In addition,

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Metro Matters

by *Chris Carney and Dan Emerine*

Metro Matters is a much-needed emergency capital funding package of \$1.5 billion for the Metro system that will pay for 120 new rail cars, new buses, and the rehabilitation of stations, tracks and systems to address overcrowding and delays. The new rail cars will be running in two years. For the past year, Sierra Club volunteers around the Washington area have rallied on behalf of the funding package. They have handed out flyers at Metro stations, phoned public officials, and in August staged their own public forum on Metro funding, with over 100 fellow riders lining up to question members of the Metro board.

Due in no small part to their efforts, all Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) jurisdiction members have signed on to the long-awaited Metro Matters agreement, and on November 2 voters in Arlington and Fairfax counties overwhelmingly approved bonds authorizing appropriations of funding for the agreement. Results like this

only affirm that residents of the whole metropolitan area consider Metro among their highest transportation priorities.

Metro Matters is a six-year funding program but it does not cover operating shortfalls or capital expenses for needed improvement and expansion projects. When the program expires in 2010, without further action the region will return to the funding crisis we have just narrowly escaped. Most transit advocates, including the Sierra Club, support creation of a dedicated source of revenue for WMATA. Many transit advocates have, however, cautioned that a dedicated source must add to, not simply replace, existing funding commitments.

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) has assembled a panel of business leaders to examine options for establishing a dedicated funding source. It is meeting as of press time in mid-November and will report by January 1, 2005, on its recommendations. The Sierra Club

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Conservation

WASA

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some fear that the schedule outlined in the LTCP would stretch out the deadlines and unduly delay the cleanup.

In an attempt to resolve these concerns and start implementing the plan, the EPA, the Department of Justice, EPA's enforcement arm, and citizen groups have undertaken negotiations to resolve these differences. WASA had maintained that if it implemented the plan, it should not be held liable for any violations of water quality standards. Citizen groups staunchly maintained that the integrity of water quality standards could not be sacrificed for a system that may or may not be operated effectively. Unfortunately, while the talk and letters and legal briefs flow back and forth, the overflows of millions of gallons of raw sewage continue.

If the rumors about the progress of the negotiations are true, WASA can start implementing the plan and the cleanup can begin. Instead of a polluted threat to human health, our Anacostia can be a haven that offers respite and habitat in our own neighborhood.

Marchant Wentworth is the water quality advisor for the D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club. He can be reached at mwentworth@ucsusa.org.



Heron at Hains Point. (photo by Jim Dougherty)

Metro

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testified before the panel in October in support of a dedicated source but also asked that WMATA enact reforms making it more accountable to riders. Additionally, our testimony stipulated that any dedicated funds should enhance, not replace, existing funding sources. Some viable options include an assessment on parking, such as the clean air compliance fee introduced in the D.C. Council by Councilmember Phil Mendelson (D-At Large), or a progressively implemented payroll tax, or a land value assessment.

This past year, when Sierra Club activists asked fellow Metro riders to support more funding for WMATA, most readily agreed. The most common problem for those riders not quite so sure concerned Metro's image of poor management and lack of public accountability. With recent scandals like train collisions, fires and derailments, Metro has its work cut out trying to regain public trust.

Richard White, WMATA's chief executive officer, is finally relying on Metrorail to get to work. This is welcome news. Such steps, and Metro's "town hall" meeting of mid-November, are signs that Metro management is beginning to understand the need to reconnect with the riding public. Problems such as absentee train operators or bus timetables that bear little relation to reality have portrayed Metro management as out of touch, and the region's citizens will be hesitant to support additional funding unless WMATA improves its accountability.

The roots of Metro's most severe problems, however, reach far beyond management. The breakdowns and overcrowding are the result of chronic underfunding and a habit of deferred maintenance. Metro's urgent financial needs are well documented. A dedicated source of funding that brings in enough money to operate and properly maintain the system will go a long way toward restoring the reliability that its riders expect.

The public is speaking, Metro is starting to listen, and it is time now for our region's elected officials to come up with a solution to save our Metro system. The alternative—Metro in a death spiral and our roads further choked by riders who've turned to their cars—is unthinkable.

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Talking Trash:

An Eye on Commercial Recycling

by Brenda Moorman

I was surprised to learn that 70 percent of the waste generated in the District of Columbia comes from commercial sources and is collected by private haulers. This amounts to 640,000 tons a year. The D.C. government classifies as commercial all sources except residential houses and apartment buildings with less than four units. According to the official D.C. government recycling report for 2003, the commercial recycling rate is 28 percent. Our sources, however, strongly dispute that figure and state that the rate is actually much closer to 6-8 percent. Yet even the disputed government figure falls disgracefully short of the goal of 45 percent that was to be achieved by 1994! Even worse, of the four major D.C. government buildings, the highest rate of recycling is only 11.1 percent in the Wilson Building.

Recycling is mandatory for all commercial entities in Washington yet only \$3,100 in fines were levied in 2003 against firms that did not recycle. Three inspectors are employed by the city to investigate recycling compliance so one would expect that scofflaws could be made to toe the line. Unfortunately, a company is considered to be in compliance merely when it files a recycling plan with the city. Further investigations are not done to check to see if it actually recycles.

The D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club has come to the rescue. For the last nine months, several hardy, adventurous members of the Recycling Committee have engaged in "dumpster diving" to get the goods on businesses that do not recycle. By manually checking the waste in dumpsters they determine if garbage and recyclables are thrown away or disposed of in a legally ac-

ceptable manner. If they discover that a business is not recycling, a letter is sent to the management stating the requirements. If they do not comply within a reasonable period, the information is turned over to the enforcement division of the D.C. government. The coming months will show if this initiative is working and ultimately increasing the compliance rate of the District's businesses.

It is clear to me from the many e-mails and calls I receive from people who say their offices do not recycle that a great deal of work needs to be done. But one person called last week to report a success story. She said that she had called the D.C. recycling office to report that her office did not recycle.

Within a few weeks, a hauler was hired to pickup recyclables and special receptacles appeared in her office. My caller just wanted to report that concerned individuals can make a difference. You can too. If your office or apartment building does not recycle, call 202-645-7191 and report them. You do not have to give your name but you will be asked for the building address and the name of the manager. Your call will initiate a surprise inspection. If nothing happens in a few weeks, call again. Make sure that recycling actually occurs and that it's not just window dressing. That will be your special gift to the planet. Please let me know if you are successful.

Next issue: Dumpster Diving Tales as Told by a Diver.



Angela Wallis dumpster dives to uncover commercial violations of recycling laws. (photo by Jim Dougherty)

Environmental Justice

Hydrogen Comes to River Terrace

by Linda Fennell

With 30 chanting protesters in the background, Shell Hydrogen/General Motors (GM) officially opened North America's first integrated hydrogen and gasoline station on November 10, 2004. The fueling station and visitors' center, located at 3355 Benning Road N.E., is a demonstration project that the companies hope will bring national attention to the possibilities of a hydrogen economy. It is the first time a hydrogen fueling pump has been located at a retail service station or in an urban setting. A government fleet of six fuel cell GM vehicles will be the first regular users of the station. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham, Mayor Anthony Williams and Councilmember Vincent Orange (D-Ward 5), chair of the D.C. Council's Committee on Government Operations, were in attendance to welcome this new energy resource to the city.

Some residents of the surrounding River Terrace community are not as upbeat about the station's launch. The protest at the launch was organized by the River Terrace Community Organization, the D.C. Green Party and George Gurley, president of Urban Protectors. Shouting "The mayor sold us out!" the demonstrators highlighted the frustrations of this close-knit community of 1,500 households. Residents accuse Shell Hydrogen and the city government of environmental racism for placing this station around the corner from an elementary school. The River Terrace Elementary School, located at A and Dix Streets N.E., is within steps of the fueling station. The school has an enrollment of 250 children in pre-K through sixth grade and in the evening serves as the neighborhood recreational facility.

Key concerns cited by community



members are the questionable safety of transporting a chemical into the community, the station's proximity to the school in case of emergency and the District's regulatory permitting process regarding the renovation of existing gasoline stations.

Since the construction of the station, two unrelated fire incidents have occurred near the property. In August of this year, a fire incident occurred at another hydrogen storage facility. News of this event heightened concerns over the city's preparedness to handle such an incident in this area. In a letter to Shell Hydrogen, Wanda Carter, president of the River Terrace Community Organization, asked the company a series of questions regarding the safety of delivering and storing hydrogen. In response, Shell Hydrogen has agreed not to make deliveries during school hours or when community events are held in the school building. The company also held open houses to educate the public on the safety precautions put in place.

Friction between the community and its corporate neighbors is not new to River Terrace. In 2000, residents rallied against Pepco and the fumes its power plant spewed over their neighborhood. Residents also objected to

the city's proposed enlargement of the trash transfer station adjacent to the power plant in 2001. That same year, the community conducted its own health survey focusing on respiratory illness and cancer-related deaths. As a result of the findings, the community requested a formal assessment by the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). The findings from that assessment were presented at a community hearing in July of this year. ATSDR classified the site as an indeterminate public health hazard because insufficient data exist to evaluate potentially increased rates of respiratory effects or cancer. In July 2004, ATSDR hosted two public information sessions to update the community and share health-related information.

ATSDR recommended continued sampling of criteria pollutants and additional pollutants in ambient air, and ongoing collection of data on respiratory illness and cancer in the community. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposes to sample air as part of its investigation into the Pepco power plant, and ATSDR will evaluate EPA's data. ATSDR also recommended promoting community awareness about air pollution and will collaborate with

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Health Officials Examine Challenges Along the Anacostia River

by Linda Fennell and Ralph Scott

Fifty public health officials and academics from across the county were treated to an up-close and personal view of the Anacostia River and its surrounding communities on November 7. During the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association, the association's Environment Section and its Built Environment Institute sponsored an environmental tour entitled, "Building Health Back into Community: The Anacostia Waterfront Initiative and River Terrace—A Community that is Fighting Back."

The tour began at the Earth Conservation Corps' Matthew Henson Center. The new president of the corps, Glen Ogilvie, described restoration efforts by corps members that include dredging solid debris from the river. The participants toured the building and its green roof and learned how low-impact development techniques are being used in new development projects along the Navy Yard corridor. The group also viewed the site of the proposed new baseball stadium. Gwyn Jones, D.C. Chapter Conservation chair, described advocacy efforts to require developers to design and build a green stadium to alleviate further negative impacts on the Anacostia River. Doug Siglin, executive director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Anacostia River Initiative, and Diana Dascalu, director of the Natural Resources Defense Council's Anacostia River Restoration Project, spoke about the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative and efforts to obtain federal funding to stop the combined sewer overflow that is the main cause of pollution in the river.

The second part of the tour provided the participants with an engaging

discussion with Wanda Carter, president of the River Terrace Community Organization. Ms. Carter discussed with the delegation, which included the director of the Division of Health Education and Promotion at the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the campaign against polluting facilities in the community, including an oil-burning Pepco power plant and the District-owned trash transfer station. Ms. Carter also described how residents developed and conducted a community health survey that convinced the registry and the D.C. Health Department to conduct additional health and environmental assessments. The delegates were particularly interested in the location of the new Shell Hydrogen gasoline and hydrogen fueling station that has been sited in the River Terrace community only 100 yards away from an elementary school in spite of vocal community opposition.

Finally, Mark Wenzler, D.C. Chapter chair, discussed the particulates that pollute the air and the decreased usage of the Pepco power plant.

The professionals attending the conference left with a greater awareness of the issues facing D.C.'s eastern neighborhoods and how those issues affect the Anacostia River and the people who live nearby.



Woodson Students Explore the Anacostia and More

by The Woodson Warrior Planet Protectors

Although it was a damp and dreary day on Monday, October 25, 2004, we, a group of 20 Environmental Science students from H. D. Woodson Senior High School, located in the far Northeast section of the District of Columbia, went on a field trip on the Anacostia River with the Living Classrooms Foundation. The foundation is a nonprofit organization operated for the benefit of the community at large, providing hands-on education and job training with a special emphasis on at-risk youth and groups from diverse backgrounds. Our science teachers, Dr. Steve Donkin and Mrs. Nancy Gordon, along with Mrs. Linda Fennell, Environmental Justice coordinator for the Sierra Club's D.C. Chapter, accompanied us.

We went aboard the Living Classrooms vessel—the M.V. Half Shell, a Chesapeake Bay "buy boat" that was formerly used to purchase oysters from the fishermen who dredged the oysters out on the Chesapeake Bay. Our mission was to study the Anacostia River, one of two in our watershed. We were able to apply prior knowledge of scientific concepts and learned how these concepts are used to monitor the water

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Mark Wenzler speaks to attendees at the American Public Health Association's annual meeting on November 7. (photo by Linda Fennell)

Sierra Club Educated, Motivated Voters in 2004 Election

by Jason Broehm

The Sierra Club can be proud of its accomplishments in the 2004 presidential election. Recognizing the importance of the election for environmental policy and the fact that hundreds of thousands of environmental supporters did not vote in the 2000 presidential election, the Sierra Club launched an ambitious Environmental Voter Education Campaign. Its goal was to contact these voters and provide them with information about the candidates' environmental records and positions and encourage them to vote on November 2.

For members living in states that were not competitive, the Sierra Club established its "Road to Somewhere" program, giving volunteers a chance to travel to nearby battleground states where they could make direct contact with potential environmental voters, engage them in conversation on environmental issues, and personally urge them to vote.

The Sierra Club targeted its efforts on nearly 500,000 potential voters in nine battleground states. Hundreds of Sierra Club members across the country got on the road and actively participated in this important campaign. Nationwide, Sierra Club volunteers made

more than 4.7 million direct contacts with these potential voters—knocking on more than 1 million doors, placing more than 1.5 million phone calls, sending out 2.2 million pieces of direct mail, and sending 350,000 e-mail messages to targeted voters.

In Philadelphia, where a number of club members from the D.C. area volunteered throughout the fall, 100,000 more people voted than in the 2000 election. Polling places in other battleground states also reported significant increases in turnout.

The Sierra Club's unprecedented efforts to mobilize environmental voters inspired and empowered numerous members, including myself, to get actively involved in the presidential election, many for the first time. The voter education campaign raised the importance of the environment in this election, and it will serve as an important building block for doing the same in future elections.



Left to right: Jason Broehm, Nadia Steinzor and Jim Dougherty canvassing in Philadelphia for the 2004 election. (photo by Jason Broehm)



Carl Pope rallies volunteers trying to get out the envi...

Working the Election

by Rachel Shaw

This year, for the first time, I voted by absentee ballot. On election day I was in Michigan, working with a friend as a poll monitor. We volunteered with Election Protection, a non-partisan group that organized after the 2000 election to ensure that registered voters were able to vote.

My friend and I were assigned in Detroit to a polling place in a neighborhood that was low income and mostly African-American. We stood outside the polling place, handing out "voter bill of rights" flyers, and as people left the polls we asked them if they'd had any problems voting. For the most part, people voted without difficulty, but that's not to say there were no problems.

One woman told us she was turned away because she was not on the rolls, although she had voted there previously, had not moved and presented an up-to-date voter registration card. A man was told that someone with his name had already voted; the first voter had said that the address listed for him was incorrect, although it was the cor-

rect address of the w... Another woman said that one of her neighbors had received mail that their polling place had changed; when they called the polling place, however, they were not on the rolls.

Some of these instances have been simply human error. One woman appeared to be some attempt at intimidation. These came from the "challengers." Each person allowed to have two challenges to stand inside the polling place. I challenge (for cause) the right of someone to vote; they can also challenge someone who is unlawfully on the rolls to vote. Some voters and poll workers complained that Republican voters were challenging for no reason, getting people out of line and then they would have to go stand in line to have their address checked on a computer. The Democrats reported that the situation was chaotic for a time, with people and voters yelling at each other. My friend also saw one of t...



Environmental vote in Philadelphia. (photo by Jason Broehm)

Local Elections Bring Changes to D.C. Council

by Jason Broehm

In the primary election on September 14, Democratic challengers defeated three veteran members of the D.C. Council and went on to win those seats in the general election in November. Kwame Brown, whom the Sierra Club endorsed, decisively beat Councilmember Harold Brazil (D-At Large) in all eight wards. Brown will become the first at-large councilmember to reside east of the Anacostia River.

In Ward 7, Vincent Gray defeated

Councilmember Kevin Chavous (D-Ward 7), a long-standing champion of the local environment and a Sierra Club ally on a range of issues over the years. After Chavous's primary defeat, however, the Sierra Club endorsed Gray in the general election based on the strength of his environmental platform.

Marion Barry staged yet another political comeback, handily beating Councilmember Sandy Allen (D-Ward 8) and returning to the Ward 8 seat he had held earlier in his career.

The Sierra Club endorsed incumbent Councilmember Carol Schwartz (R-At Large) in the Republican primary and the general election, and she easily won re-election. As chair of the D.C. Council's Public Works and the Environment Committee, Schwartz has championed a number of the Sierra Club's priorities over the years.

In Ward 2, the Sierra Club endorsed Councilmember Jack Evans (D-Ward 2), and he was re-elected by a comfortable margin. Evans has been a strong and steady supporter of the full range of the Sierra Club's issues, notably saving Klingle Valley and expanding recreational use of Beach Drive in Rock Creek National Park.

The Sierra Club made no endorsement in Ward 4 where Councilmember Adrian Fenty (D-Ward 4) faced no opponent in the primary or general elections.

ould-be voter. at she and some eceived notices elling place had me to the new they were not

nces may have r. But there also empts at voter ne from two of ch party is al- engers who can place and chal- ight of individu- o take action if denied the right d a poll worker can challengers eason, calling elling them they in another long ss verified on a atic challenger n became quite th challengers ach other. My he challengers

start to rip partisan signs out of the ground, claiming they were too close to the polling place. The police were eventually called by challengers on both sides and were there for several hours taking statements from challengers and witnesses.

It was heartening to see how determined people were to vote. People who had waited in line at the wrong polling place hustled themselves off to the right one. The man whose vote had been cast by someone with the same name wrote up a complaint form, left his phone number with us, went home and came back to cast a provisional ballot. One woman who had left without voting because she'd been told she'd have to wait in a second line to have her residence checked decided to go back in; she was able to vote successfully.

Did we really help much? Perhaps just our presence was encouraging, and without it the challengers might have felt even more emboldened. We probably helped a few people to vote who might have given up. But I suspect we helped ourselves as much as anyone.

We wanted so badly to do *something* this election year. It's no secret that the outcome of the election was a huge disappointment for many of us. I know I would have felt even worse if I hadn't gone to Michigan. I was proud to be a part of something historic, even if on the losing end.

This election, and working with Election Protection, has gotten me thinking hard about politics, democracy, values, what our country stands for, how divided we are and what can unite us. It seems to me that environmental considerations have the potential to be more unifying than they have been in the past. Most people, of whatever political party, don't want dirty air, dirty water, and massive clearcutting of national forests. How can we do a better job of reaching out to them? Can we join with other organizations, even groups that may be focused on other issues, to be a more effective voice for positive change? I hope to be thinking and writing about these things in the coming months.

Environmental Justice

Hydrogen

Continued from page 8

local advocates to do this.

Environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, are also skeptical of hydrogen's prospects. "The major unanswered questions about hydrogen are not whether you can run a car on it. They are, how do you make it? What is it going to cost? And what is going to be the public investment in infrastructure?" said David Hamilton, director of global warming and energy programs at the Sierra Club. The Shell station on Benning Road is "devoid of economic reality. [Hydrogen power] doesn't exist in the real world except as a hugely subsidized example of something that the companies want you to see." Hydrogen is a common element, but it has to be extracted in ways that can be environmentally damaging. The most common method for producing hydrogen involves burning natural

gas, but since natural gas is already in increasing demand and short supply, it is not practical to expect it to be a major resource for fueling vehicles, Hamilton said.

Shell Hydrogen has been working with city officials on this project since 2003. Earlier this year, the project garnered support from Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7D (ANC) which cited the benefits of having a corporate neighbor in the River Terrace area. In support of the community, Shell Hydrogen donated \$50,000 to the River Terrace Elementary School that will assist the school in developing its technology laboratory. In addition to Shell Hydrogen's partnership with GM, it has also partnered with Howard University's College of Engineering to advance hydrogen fuel cell education. As a part of a two-year \$30,000 financial commitment, Shell Hydrogen established the Shell Hydrogen Schol-

ars Program at Howard that will fund student research in hydrogen fuel cell projects and provide financial aid to undergraduate students who major in engineering.

As a result of Shell's efforts to involve and educate the community, some residents are coming around. Commissioner Christine Tolson, chair for ANC 7D, stated that the new station "represents vision for our nation as well as our community." When asked whether or not she was a staunch supporter of the project from the beginning, she responded, "I had to educate myself. Hydrogen initially makes you think 'bomb.' This is something you have to think hard about, especially when it affects children and a community."

Notwithstanding Shell Hydrogen's financial investment in the River Terrace community, the company may have to face continuing opposition.

Woodson

Continued from page 9

quality and general state of this aquatic ecosystem. We also acquired new and valuable information about determining the level of pollution in the water and how it affects aquatic organisms.

Measuring the pH, temperature, salinity and presence of nitrates and phosphates in the water, we determined that the pH level was 6.5 and the salinity was low, but the presence of nitrates and phosphates was high, which reduces the amount of oxygen available for the aquatic organisms. Basically, we found that with the additional presence of sewage spilling into the Anacostia River from the combined sewer overflow (CSO) from the nearby Blue Plains Water Treatment facility, the Anacostia River water is neither safe to drink nor to swim in.

We learned how to fish with a

trawl net, how to handle and identify the fish by anatomical features, and were required to measure the fish that we caught and to identify the species that are present in the Anacostia. Additionally, we caught and observed the different types of plankton, studied the structure and importance of clams in the ecosystem, were taught how to use the navigational system, and learned naval terminology and how to steer a boat.

We learned, in conclusion, that the Anacostia River is an important river for the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and that we need to take better care of it! Ways in which we can improve the condition of the Anacostia and reduce the levels of pollution are: to not litter in our neighborhoods, plant more trees around the river to stop erosion, and increase our community's environmental awareness. The District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia need to combine

their funds to construct new sewage pipes beneath the Anacostia River and to reduce the CSO.

The Living Classrooms project is increasing awareness in the community about the pollution in the Anacostia River. Our own environmental awareness and continued efforts to learn about our environment will someday contribute to the effort to make our Anacostia River a healthy ecosystem for future generations.



Woodson High School students explore the Anacostia River. (photo by Linda Fennell)

The Sierra Club Launches “True Cost of Food Campaign”

by Gordon LaBedz

The United States, with less than 5 percent of the world’s people, consumes over 25 percent of its resources. And that’s not even the bad news. The really scary news is that the rest of the planet is scrambling to catch up with our lifestyle. If all 6.4 billion people did so, we’d need four more Earths to accommodate them.

In response, the Sierra Club Sustainable Consumption Committee has launched a new, national, grassroots campaign. It’s focused on the one major aspect of American consumption that’s probably the easiest to change: our dietary lifestyle. American food production has a huge impact on the environment:

- Agriculture is the largest source of water pollution in the United States.
- Our industrialized farming poisons the soil, encourages pests and destroys biodiversity.
- Three-fourths of the land in the continental United States is devoted to agriculture or grazing, and much of the cropland produces grain for cows, not people.

The Sierra Club expends enormous resources fighting the symptoms of unsustainable agriculture, from water pollution and toxins in the food chain to loss of habitat and species. What the club has not previously done is seriously to challenge the root cause of these problems: American food consumption patterns. By and large, our diet is so unsustainably produced that it jeopardizes not just the environment but also our health. More important, it completely ignores the true cost of food.

That’s about to change. We’re responding with the “True Cost of Food” campaign to make the club a leader in sustainable eating. Our goal is an America that eats:

- Low on the food chain;
- Organically produced food; and
- L o c a l l y grown food when practical.

The first prong of this campaign is to build a nationwide network of activists who will target local markets to encourage them to provide more food that is organically grown, locally produced and reasonably priced. These goals are practical and within reach. There already exists a pent-up public demand for organically grown food. Rapidly growing numbers of local farmers want to give up their dependence on poisons. And the Sierra Club already has the ideal structure and experience to galvanize this movement.

The second prong is educational. We’re producing brochures and fact sheets for activists and articles for local newsletters. We’re completely redoing our Web site to make it even more informative: www.sierraclub.org/sustainable_consumption.

This campaign has one special advantage: It shows environmentally minded people how they can immediately start to make a big difference in their everyday lives. That’s empowerment. And empowered people are already halfway to becoming activists. Consider the impact of this one fact on someone who is already trying to conserve water: It takes 2,500 gallons of water to produce a pound of beef. This equals a five-minute shower every day for six months!



photo by Jim Dougherty

The third prong is a concept we are popularizing: “Sustainable Tuesday.” On Tuesdays, we encourage everyone (not just activists) to make a fun-filled effort to live more lightly on our planet. It might be a group outing for a pre-arranged sustainable meal at a local restaurant or an intimate sustainable potluck family dinner. We could turn the thermostat up or down, depending on the season. We could walk or use alternate transportation if possible. Maybe we could hike in the park with a friend instead of going shopping. The main thing is to make it fun!

Are you a club activist with too much on your plate? Here’s an easy way to help! You probably know someone who has an interest in sustainable food or belongs to one of the above-mentioned communities. This person ought to be delighted to find that the club is working on these issues and should be encouraged to contact us. We’d love to have anyone get involved at any level of activity they are comfortable with. Please have them contact our volunteer coordinator, Gordon LaBedz at glabedzmd@aol.com, or get in touch yourself.

Civil War or Civility: How to Live with Urban Coyotes

by Susan Hagood

If there is a born survivor among the mammals, it must be the coyote. This animal, after all, has thrived and expanded his range despite decades of devoted and remarkably wasteful federal efforts to eradicate him from the West. Once largely restricted to the open rural prairies, the coyote now exists in every state except Hawaii and has even learned to coexist with humans in ever-expanding cities and towns.

Some people welcome this so-called invasion about as much as Atlanta welcomed Sherman, while others celebrate the ability of coyotes to survive in a hostile environment filled with buildings, fences, concrete and cars. Community meetings—held when coyotes are observed in a neighborhood or a few cats mysteriously disappear—are usually divided into coyote lovers and coyote haters. Each side is fierce in its conviction that the coyotes must stay or go, although most of the time no one has accurate data on coyote behavior and myths are reported as fact.

This scenario will be repeated in countless cities and towns—it was most recently witnessed in the heart of Washington, D.C., when a few coyotes were seen in Rock Creek Park—as coyotes use their remarkable abilities to settle and survive in human-dominated environments. Yet when all is said and done, the only possible resolution to this civil war is for us to learn to coexist. In urban environments, like the District, coyotes thrive because food is plentiful and natural predators are unknown. Removal efforts are doomed to fail.

Sharing the Land

Fortunately, living with coyotes is not difficult. It all boils down to a number of relatively simple tasks: not giving coyotes an easy meal by leav-



ing out pet food, unprotected garbage or small animals (such as cats or dogs under 50 lbs); and punishing them by shouting at or spraying water near them whenever they approach human property. Fruit that falls off trees should also be immediately picked up since coyotes are omnivorous.

Coyotes who adapt to human settlements become bolder, appearing often in daylight and sometimes standing their ground when threatened. Some media outlets have reported coyotes roaming onto front porches or backyards. Under these circumstances, animal control officers should be called in to take charge of the problem. Remember never to run from a coyote if you are confronted with one. Instead, make yourself look big and shout. And always remember that coyotes are wild animals and should remain that way.

Never try to feed them or pet them.

History Lessons

Rather than expanding the expensive and ultimately futile Western war against coyotes to our cities as the range of the animal expands, we have an opportunity to learn from past mistakes and apply those lessons—and a little civility—to our evolving relationship with this most remarkable creature. We should never interact with coyotes the way we do with domestic dogs, no matter how similar they look, but we should be able to adapt to their presence, just like they have to ours.

For more information on solving problems with coyotes, go to www.hsus.org/21720.

Susan Hagood is a specialist on wildlife issues with The Humane Society of the United States.

Want to Save the Planet? Then subscribe to it!

The monthly newspaper *The Planet* and the twice-weekly e-mail update *The Current* are guides to environmental activism at the national and international levels. Educate yourself on hot conservation issues, learn how to get involved in club campaigns, and find out how you can take individual action. Both publications are free to all Sierra Club members and other active environmentalists. To subscribe to either, e-mail planet@sierraclub.org or visit www.sierraclub.org/planet.

Announcements

Thank you, Donors!

The following are members who have responded to our March Window fundraising campaign but have not been previously acknowledged on these pages. Thank you for your support of the Washington, D.C., Chapter and its programs. For the rest of you, it's never too late to contribute—just contact our treasurer, Karen Cordry, at 301-933-3640 or karenc425@aol.com.

Gordon W. Anderson
Anna Chamberlin
Randy Davis
Rosemary Dickerson
Krystyna Edmondson
Jeremy A. Ehrlich
James David Hobbs
Elinor Hunter
Lynne Martin
Sidney Newman
Christine Nickerson
Dorothy Smith
Dennis M. Smyth
Lisa Swanson
Yoma Ullman
Marchant Wentworth
Sandra Z. Wilson

Write Letters to Spur D.C. Recycling

The Recycling Committee is looking for committed volunteers to help encourage D.C.'s commercial properties to recycle. If you'd be able to send a letter a month on our behalf, please e-mail Matthew Tisdale at mtisdale@gmail.com.

Help Local Schools Recycle

The D.C. public schools seek volunteers to help with the recycling program in 10 elementary schools in Southeast Washington. As part of their life science projects, students collect newspapers, magazines and Xerox paper for recycling. Volunteers are needed to transport these materials to a local recycling plant. Pickups will start December 1, 2004, and run monthly until June 1, 2005. Pickup is coordinated through Ms. Alberta Paul and the local site building engineers during the week. To volunteer, contact Ms. Paul at 202-584-3890.

Schools needing assistance:

Moton Elementary School, 1565 Morris Road S.E.
Moton Special Education Center, 1565 Morris Road S.E.
P.R. Harris Education Center, 4600 Livingston Road S.E.
Patterson Elementary School, 3000 South Capital Street S.E.
Clara Mohammed Elementary School, 2313-15 MLK Jr. Avenue S.E.
Southeast Academy, 645 Milwaukee Place S.E.
Savoy Elementary School, 2400 Shannon Place S.E.
Birney Elementary School, 2501 MLK Jr. Avenue S.E.
Stanton Elementary School, 2701 Naylor Road S.E.
Fletcher Johnson Education Center, 4650 Benning Road S.E.

Chapter Seeks New Chapter Assistant

The Washington, D.C., Chapter is currently accepting applications for the staff position of chapter assistant. The chapter assistant performs various administrative duties in support of the day-to-day operations of the chapter and the Executive Committee, interacts with volunteers, coordinates chapter activities and meetings, and responds to routine inquiries from members, volunteers and the general public. It is currently a half-time position, paying an hourly wage and providing benefits. A complete job description may be found at www.dc.sierraclub.org/volunteers.

Chapter E-mail Alerts

Would you like to receive e-mail alerts from the chapter about upcoming events and opportunities to speak up for the District's environment? To join, please submit a request by e-mail to washingtndc.chapter@sierraclub.org.



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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Calendar

Outings

Following is a *partial* list of activities offered by the Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program (MWROP). For a more complete and up-to-date list and additional information, visit www.mwrop.org or call 202-547-2326.

Sat. Dec. 4 (rated C). Antietam Hike & Illumination. Annual event. Afternoon hike of 11 mi. (shorter options available) on mixed surfaces of Civil War battlefield, followed by drive through the Memorial Illumination—23,000 candles commemorating the casualties of the bloodiest single-day battle in American history. Bad-weather date, Dec. 11. Optional dinner at historic Old South Mountain Inn (limited reservations; call soon). Leader: Mike Darzi 301-593-4551.

Sun. Dec. 5 (rated B). West Fairfax Trail. Discover the recently created West Fairfax Trail and hike 8 mi. from Bull Run Regional Park to Eleanor Lawrence along Cub and Rocky Runs in western Fairfax County. Learn about a rapidly growing greenway system that will someday connect hundreds of mi. of Northern Va. trails. Meet at the Cabells Mill parking lot along Walney Rd. in Eleanor Lawrence Park at 9 a.m. Driving directions: Take I-66 west to Centreville and go north on Rte 28. Make the first right at Walney Rd. and proceed to Cabells Mill on right. Park in lot in front of mill. Leader: Glenn Gillis 703-430-0568.

Sun. Dec. 5 (rated B). Potomac Park in Get-to-Know-D.C. Series. Non-hilly 8.2-mi. figure-8 hike featuring riverfront views, the Tidal Basin, the Cuban-American Friendship Urn, Hains Point, "The Awakening" in grass, George Mason in bronze, real toilets, and a touch of the Mall—including optional carousel ride. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Mall entrance to Smithsonian Metro Station. Joint event with AMC-DC. Leaders: Paul Elliott 703-256-6351 and Frank Wodarzyk 703-569-6737.

Tue. Dec. 7 (rated H). Leading Ridge. Leading Ridge Trail to the AT, south to Corbin Cabin for lunch, then climb Indian Run Trail and return via Crusher Ridge. 18 mi. with 4,000 ft. climb. Leader: Chris Nolen 301-469-8931 or chrishiker@erols.com.

Thu. Dec. 9 (rated C). Great Falls, Va. Fraser Preserve, Seneca and Riverbend trails. A moderate to fast 9-10 mi. over variable terrain. From I-495, exit 44W on Va. 193 (Georgetown Pike) for 7.5 mi. to Springvale Rd. Go right for 2.5 mi. to arrow, left then immediate right. At Allenwood Lane, turn left and park. Bring water, lunch. Starts at 10 a.m. Leader: HenriComeau@aol.com or 703-451-7965.

Sat. Dec. 11 (rated B). Brookland in Get-to-Know-D.C. Series. Figure-8-shaped, semi-flat 9-mi. through fascinating multi-ethnic area of educational, religious and cultural institutions; historic cemeteries; and residential neighborhoods. Meet at 10 a.m. at basilica parking lot off Harewood Road, N.E., at Michigan Ave (0.5 mi. from Brookland Metro Station). Call for directions. Joint hike with AMC-DC. Leaders: Paul Elliott 703-256-6351 and Frank Wodarzyk 703-569-6737.

Sat. Dec. 11 (rated B). C&O Canal-Gold Mine Trail. 7 mi. walk to Great Falls along the C&O canal towpath and in the woods above the falls. Meet at 10 a.m. at

Carderock Park, off the Clara Barton Parkway in Md., 1 mi. west of Beltway exit 41. Pass under the canal, turn right, and drive to the farthest parking lot. Targeted finish 2-2:30 p.m. Bring lunch, water. Leader: Jim Fremont 301-962-4703 before 9 p.m.

Sat. Dec. 11 (rated D). Riverbend Park and Great Falls Park. 9.5 mi., 2,200 ft. elev. change. Meet at Riverbend Park. 8 a.m. Leader: Russ Norfleet 703-501-7953 or rnorfleet@arlingtonva.us.

Sat. Dec. 11 (rated G). Central Massanutten. New Market Gap to Duncan Knob. Meet at Oakton Shopping Center at 7:30 a.m. Inexperienced hikers call for requirements. Leaders: William Needham 410-884-9127 or Needham82@aol.com and Jack Thorsen 703-339-6716 or Thorsen4@juno.com

Sun. Dec. 12 (rated A). Conservation Hike along Seneca Creek. An easy 6.5 mi. stroll from the visitor center off Clopper Rd. in Montgomery County downstream along the Seneca Creek Trail (partly built by Sierrans) to mill ruins at Black Rock. Discuss threats to streams and the area's natural and unnatural history. Car shuttle. Co-leaders: Larry Broadwell 301-215-7135 and Bob Goldberg 301-540-2915 before 9 p.m.

Tue. Dec. 14 (rated H). Old Rag and Whiteoak Canyon. 14 mi. and 4,500 ft. climb. Enjoy the scramble up Old Rag, down to foot of Whiteoak for a second climb and return via Corbin Hollow. Leader: Chris Nolen 301-469-8931 or chrishiker@erols.com.

Sat. Dec. 18 (rated B). Sugarloaf Mountain-Northern Peaks Trail Conservation Walk. A scenic 7-mi. loop from the base up around the main summit and over several lower peaks. Discuss the history of the area, the concept of Montgomery County's agricultural reserve and other conservation issues relevant to this region. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Leader: Ron LaCoss 301-946-1106 before 9 p.m. or ronenviroed@aol.com.

Sat. Dec. 18 (rated C). Washington, D.C., from River to River. Get-to-Know-D.C. Series. Moderately paced, flat, and historically rich circuit hike of about 12 mi. (but shortenable) from the Potomac to the Anacostia by way of the National Mall, Capitol Hill, Lincoln Park, Congressional Cemetery, Eastern Market, and 17 other intriguing sites. Leashed pets welcome. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Mall entrance to Smithsonian Metro Station (north of Jefferson Dr. near 12th St., N.W.). Joint event with AMC-DC. Paul Elliott 703-256-6351 and Gary Kosciusko 703-765-0306 before 9 p.m.

Tue. Dec. 21 (rated H). Overall Falls. From Thompson Hollow, climb Overall Run to view the falls, continue to Mathew's Arm and Elkwallow, and return via Beecher Ridge. 16 mi. and 3,500 ft. climb. Leader: Chris Nolen 301-469-8931 or chrishiker@erols.com.

Sat. Dec. 25 (rated A). Columbia and Roosevelt Islands in Get-to-Know-D.C. Series. Moderately paced, holiday-morning, close-in and scenic hike of up to 7.4

mi. along Potomac River. Adults only (because of road crossings); leashed dogs okay. Cooks and gourmands can finish early by skipping Roosevelt Island circuit. Meet at 9 a.m. at that island's parking lot (0.8 mi. from Rosslyn Metro Station). Call for directions. Joint event with AMC-DC. Leader: Paul Elliott 703-256-6351.

Tue. Dec. 28 (rated H). Little Devil's Stairs. Ascend the stairs to Keyser Run Rd., take AT south over Hogback for views, then descend Piney Ridge Trail, and return on Hull School Trail. About 13 mi. and 4,100 ft. climb. Leader: Chris Nolen 301-469-8931 or chrishiker@erols.com.

Sat. Jan 1 (rated B). 31st Annual New Year's Day Hike on C & O Canal. Start 2005 right with a 10-mi. walk along the towpath. Meet 9:30 a.m. on Wisconsin Ave. at the canal, south of M St. in Georgetown. Walk to Little Falls Pump Station (or turn around sooner) and return to Georgetown. Leaders: Carol Ivory 703-476-8730 before 10 p.m., and Marcia Wolf 301-565-3165; honorary leader, Walter Wells 202-362-0250 mornings or evenings before 10 p.m.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Call for experienced hiker-writers: The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) is updating the guidebook on circuit hikes in the Shenandoah, and Sierrans are pitching in. If you would like to hike one or more of the 31 loops described in the 1996 edition and confirm or update the text, e-mail Larry Broadwell at bakpacker1@earthlink.net.

EVENTS SPONSORED BY AFFILIATES

AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The following events are not run by MWROP, and MWROP and/or the Sierra Club can take no responsibility and make no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of events they do not sponsor. They are published as a reader service because they may be of interest to recipients of this calendar.

Sat.-Sun. Dec. 4-5. Wilderness First Aid (not a Sierra Club event). Wilderness Safety Council offers 18-hour class, priced at \$160. Includes instruction and hands-on practice. Session limited to 25 people. For details, contact Christopher Tate 703-836-8905 or see <http://wfa.net>.

Winter Cross-Country Skiing Trips (not Sierra Club events) are offered by the Ski Touring Section of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club in the mid-Atlantic states and further afield—every weekend from late December into March. For details, go to <http://patc.net/chapters-ski/> or contact Rob Swennes at 703-532-6101.

Hike Rating System

One point is assigned to each mile and each 400' elevation change, up & down. The higher the point total, the more difficult the hike. For example, a five-mile hike with 1,200' elevation change (400' up, 800' down) gets a point total of 8 and is rated B; an 8-mile hike with an elevation change of 3,600' gets a point total of 17 and is rated E.

Rating	Points	Rating	Points	Rating	Points
A	7 or less	B	8-10	C	11 - 13
D	14 - 16	E	17 - 19	F	20 - 22
G	23 - 25	H	more than 25		



Calendar

D.C. Chapter and Related Events

Following is a list of activities of the D.C. Chapter at press time. Because of the possibility of changes, please confirm with the contact person or by checking our Web site, <http://dc.sierraclub.org/>.

December

Thu. Dec. 2

Executive Committee meeting. 7-9 p.m. Club offices, 401 C St. N.E. All members welcome. Contact Mark Wenzler at 202-547-3410 or mwenzler@net.org.

Tue. Dec. 7

Sierra Club D.C. Chapter Annual Holiday Party. 6:30-9:00 p.m. Pizzeria Uno, Union Station. \$10 donation suggested for food. Cash bar. RSVP by Friday, Dec. 3, to Chris Craig at 202-554-5502 or ccraig@zzapp.org.

Tue. Dec. 14

Air Quality and Transportation Committee meeting. 7 p.m. Sierra Club offices, 401 C St. N.E. Contact Tom Metcalf at 202-832-3809 (evenings) or thmetcalf@mac.com or Melanie Mayock at 202-546-5363 or MKMayock@yahoo.com.

Wed. Dec. 15

Recycling Committee meeting. 6:30-8:00 p.m. Marvin Center, Room 207, George Washington University, 800 21st St. N.W. (Foggy Bottom Metro Station). Contact Brenda Moorman at 202-333-5424 or brennamoorman@aol.com.

January

Mon. Jan 3

Deadline for ballots for the D.C. Chapter Executive Committee Election (see p. 19-20).

Thu. Jan. 6

Executive Committee meeting. See Dec. 2.

Mon. Jan. 10

Second Monday Happy Hour. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Nirvana, 1810 K St. N.W. (Farragut West Metro Station, Metrobus lines D1/D3/D5/D6.42). All members and friends welcome. Contact Jason Broehm at 202-299-0745 or jason_broehm@hotmail.com.

Tue. Jan 11

Air Quality and Transportation Committee meeting. See Dec. 14.

Wed. Jan. 19

Recycling Committee meeting. See Dec. 15, but room number may vary.

February

Thu. Feb. 3

Executive Committee meeting. See Dec. 2.

Tue. Feb. 8

Air Quality and Transportation Committee meeting. See Dec. 14.

Mon. Feb. 14

Second Monday Happy Hour. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Capitol City Brewing Company, 2 Massachusetts Ave. N.E. (Union Station Metro Station, Red Line; Metrobus lines D1/D3/D4/D6/D8, 96/97). See Jan. 10.

Wed. Feb.16

Recycling Committee meeting. See Dec. 15, but room number may vary.

March

Thu. Mar. 3


Executive Committee meeting. See Dec. 2.

Tue. Mar. 8

Air Quality and Transportation Committee meeting. See Dec. 14.

Mon. Mar. 14


Second Monday Happy Hour. 5:30-7:30 p.m. The Reef, 2446 18th St. N.W., second floor (Woodley Park-Zoo/Adams Morgan Metro Station, Red Line; Metrobus lines 42, 90/92/93/96/98, L2). See Jan. 10.



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SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT/LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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Chapter Executive Committee Elections

Following are statements from each of the candidates running for the 2005 Executive Committee. An asterisk () denotes a current voting member of the Executive Committee.*

Ralph Garboushian

Thank you for the opportunity to run for the Executive Committee of the D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club. I have lived in the District for close to 10 years and have been a member of the D.C. Chapter for almost as long. In the past year, I served on the chapter's Political Committee helping to evaluate candidates for local office and make recommendations to the Executive Committee about the chapter's endorsements and then helping to get those candidates elected. I have also participated in a number of volunteer activities for the chapter, mostly with the Air Quality and Transportation Committee and have also helped with the chapter's membership and outreach activities. I have especially enjoyed working with the Air Quality and Transportation Committee and particularly enjoyed our campaigns to secure additional funding for Metro and to improve Metro service and accountability. In addition to transportation and air quality issues, my other main interest is improving the health and management of the District's parks, open space and waterways. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to ensuring that the chapter remains a strong advocate for a healthy and livable D.C.

Chasta Jones*

I seek re-election to the Executive Committee for an opportunity to serve another two-year term on this dynamic committee. I look forward to continuing to work with other area activists committed to issues such as environmental

justice, parks/land use, recycling, air quality and clean energy in the District. I strongly advocate for environmental justice, clean air and smoke-free policies. In addition to the Sierra Club, I have been actively involved with the Logan Circle Community Association since 2002 as a member of the board and chair of the Beautification Committee. I am also involved with the D.C. Asthma Coalition, Breathe Free D.C., Ward 2 Democrats and D.C. Democratic State Committee. If re-elected, I will continue to be energetic, involved and committed to the overall duties of the Executive Committee and to the protection of the District's environment.

Bob Morris*

I have been honored to be on the Executive Committee for three years. I served as conservation chair for a year, giving that up when I became the chair of the Appalachian Region Conservation Committee (ARCC), which covers a 10-state area. I have worked on low-impact development and parkland preservation issues, and served on the Environmental Justice Steering Committee.

If re-elected, I will continue as chair of the ARCC and try to get more involvement by the D.C. Chapter and individual members in the broader issues that affect the region and beyond. The combination of climate change and energy is the greatest issue of this century, and we need to make it a higher priority both locally and nationally.

I strongly support efforts to change the balance of policies to favor public transportation, especially rail, instead of car-centered transportation. I promote greater density of development here in the District to attract residents, businesses and recreational visitors, instead of having that development sprawl out into rural areas. The development in the city should be centered on transit hubs,

should use best practices to improve storm and sewer water management, should restore the tree canopy, should not displace current residents and should provide green space within easy walking distance of all residences.

If you think we should promote the issues I have raised by more grassroots action, then please vote for me. If you disagree, please vote for someone else, but I urge all members to please vote for someone in this election to show you care about the issues. Thank you.

Matthew Tisdale

As an environmental activist it has been, and will remain, my goal to improve the public image of our conservation efforts. So many of the challenges we face in our movement stem from our failure to manage the image of conservation. This mismanagement of our public image has led more Americans to associate environmental conservation with the spotted owl than they do with clean air, clean water and public health. This must change. I believe that the Sierra Club must take the lead in casting a more positive public image of conservation, one that focuses on public health and stewardship of our natural resources. As a member of the Executive Committee of the D.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club I'll work to make these changes locally.

A few of my local goals for our chapter are to continue working with the Recycling Committee to encourage more recycling by commercial properties in the District and to join the Air Quality and Transportation Committee in advocating for additional Metro funding from our suburban neighbors. In addition, I am interested in helping the Executive Committee design and implement a more robust fund-raising initiative that will enable our chapter to better afford its many outstanding

Chapter Executive Committee Elections

How to Vote:

1. You may vote for up to four candidates by checking the box in the first column next to their names.
2. If you are a joint member, the second member also may vote for up to four candidates by checking the boxes in the second column.
3. Tear off the entire page, making sure to include your mailing address, which appears on the reverse side.
(NOTE: Mailing labels will be separated from ballots before counting to ensure confidentiality.)
4. Mail the ballot **TODAY** to:

Sierra Club Elections
c/o Chris Craig
355 O Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

initiatives.

I would welcome the challenge and opportunity to encourage these goals as a member of the Executive Committee.

Mark Wenzler*

I've been proud to serve as a volunteer leader for the Sierra Club since I moved to Washington in 1995. "Dumpster diving" with Jim Dougherty to find recycling violations was enough to get me hooked. Since that time I've served as political chair, led our efforts to secure clean fuel Metro buses, and served as

Official Ballot
2005 District of Columbia Chapter
of the Sierra Club
Executive Committee Elections

You may vote for as many as four (4) candidates.

	single member	joint member
Ralph Garboushian	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chasta Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bob Morris	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew Tisdale	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mark Wenzler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ed Wheelless	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write in:	_____	

chapter chair. After three years as your chair, I'm stepping down, but I would very much like to remain a part of the chapter's leadership team. I recently returned from the Sierra Club's fundraising training in San Francisco and intend to focus my energies on growing the chapter's campaign capacity over the year ahead (so be warned, if I'm re-elected, I just may be calling you for a special contribution). We have so many challenges and opportunities ahead of us—the Anacostia Watershed Initiative, the clean energy bill, improving public transportation—and I want to make sure the Sierra Club remains

the most effective force in D.C. for environmental change.

Ed Wheelless

No statement available as of press time.

VOTE TODAY!

BALLOTS MUST

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JANUARY 3, 2005

TO BE COUNTED!

WASHINGTON, D.C., CHAPTER DIRECTORY

Executive Committee

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